GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1522
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2001
EDUCATIONALLY BACKWARD STATES
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the educationally backward States/districts;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have so far made any time bound programme, particularly for the Tenth Five Year Plan for the development of such States/districts in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a): No specific survey has been carried out for this purpose. However, based on the literacy rates ten States that ranked lowest have been listed as "Educationally Backward States"in our publications, without conferring any special status. As per 1991 census these ten State are:

1. Andhra Pradesh

2. Arunachal Pradesh

3. Assam

4. Bihar

5. Jammu & Kashmir
6. Madhya Pradesh

7 Orissa

8. Rajasthan

9. Uttar Pradesh
10. West Bengal

In addition, 146 districts have been identified as low female literacy districts (as per 1991 census) based on the following criteria:

(i) Districts wherein both SCs and STs female literacy rate is less than 10%;

(ii) Districts wherein either SCs or STs female literacy rate is less than 5%;

(iii) Districts wherein either SCs or STs female literacy rate is more than 5% but less than 10%; and

(iv) Districts wherein total female literacy rate is less than 20%.

(b): The State-wise details of these 146 districts are as under:-

Name of State	No. of Districts
Andhra Pradesh	11
Arunachal Pradesh	3
Bihar	28
Chhatisgarh	2
Gujarat	2
Jharkhand	7
Karnataka	2
Madhya Pradesh	25
Orissa	6
Rajasthan	25
Uttar Pradesh	32
West Bengal	3

(c) & (d): These districts are proposed to be covered under the District Primary Education Programme (DPEP)/SarvaShiksha Abhiyan (SSA), besides other steps which include:

(i) Advocacy through mass media to inform and educate people regarding the benefits of literacy and education. The facilities of Doordarshan; Akashvani, Press Information Bureau, Song and Drama & Film Division of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and Nehru Yuvak Kendras to be tapped;

(ii) Social mobilization of rural population of these districts with special attention to creating awareness among women. The services of Department of Women & Child Development (Ministry of Human Resource Development), National Commission for Women and other national bodies involved with women's upliftment to be utilized;

(iii) Programmes on the pattern of Mahila Samakhya may be extended to these districts for empowering women and motivating them to send their children to school;

(iv) Activising health at the grass-roots to provide reproductive and health services of a good quality; and Launching of 'Praveshotsavas' for admission of girls of SCs and STs in Primary Schools with the support of the community.